

Congress Present: Using THOMAS

What are your members of Congress doing? What are their positions on the issues? How can you contact them? Explore THOMAS, the Library of Congress Web site for Congressional materials, and become an active participant in the legislative process!

Audience: teachers, curriculum specialists, staff development trainers, media specialists, librarians, and university instructors

Objectives:

Participants will:

- Understand the various sections of THOMAS and their contents;
- Be able to search for legislation from the 93rd Congress (1973-74) to the present.

Tasks in brief:

- Search Bill Text and Bill Summary and Status by subject and sponsor.
- Find a Member of Congress to send an email message.
- Navigate to the home page of a Member of Congress.
- Find committees and committee reports.
- Search the Congressional Record.

Presentation Options:

One-hour interactive session (post-conference review of resources below encouraged).

Option: Participants may be at internet-connected computers for hands-on practice during the session.

Resources:

- Learning Page Activity: [Introducing THOMAS](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/thomas/index.html)
<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/thomas/index.html>
- Learning Page Lesson: [In Congress Assembled: Linking Past to Present](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/constitu/const-l3.html)
<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/constitu/const-l3.html>
- [THOMAS](http://thomas.loc.gov/): Legislative Information on the Internet
<http://thomas.loc.gov/>